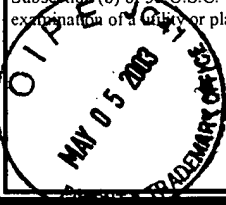


RCE7287
#30252
5/12/98

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.



Application Number	08/981,654
Filing Date	January 8, 1998
First Named Inventor	KANEKO, et al.
Group Art Unit	2871
Name of Examiner	Dung T. Nguyen
Attorney Docket No.	971480

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53 (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar 20, 2000) 1233 Off. Gazette Pat

1. Submission Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. ☒ Previously submitted
- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on: April 7, 2003
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☒ Other A copy of April 7, 2003 response with correct claim 1 and Exhibit I.

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2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of Action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months (period shall not exceed three months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e) - (\$750.00)
- ii. ☒ Extension of Time Fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) - (\$520.00)
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

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CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty Docket No.

971480

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name William F. Westerman

Registration No.: 29,988 (atty/agent)

Signature

Date May 5, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, BOX RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

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